



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Joel M.  
4 Tomas of Palos Hills on December 13, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Tomas was the longest serving alderman in  
6 Palos Hills history; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Tomas was born in Chicago and raised on the  
8 South Side; he attended Gage Park High School, Wilson Junior  
9 College, and graduated from Roosevelt University with a degree  
10 in science; he later returned to Roosevelt to get a master's in  
11 guidance counseling; and

12 WHEREAS, He began his teaching career at Reavis High School  
13 in Burbank in 1967; for 32 years he taught human biology and  
14 physical science; he created an environmental science course,  
15 sponsored the senior class and the science club, started a  
16 recycling program, and became a guidance counselor; and

17 WHEREAS, After Mr. Tomas retired as a teacher, he became a  
18 career coordinator at Reavis and developed a program for  
19 at-risk students to explore career options; and

20 WHEREAS, For 12 years, starting in the late 1960s, he also  
21 worked as a laboratory technician at St. Elizabeth Hospital on  
22 the Northwest Side; he also taught a judo class and was a high  
23 school wrestling referee for 14 years; and

24 WHEREAS, As an alderman, Mr. Tomas represented Palos Hills'  
25 4th Ward and chaired the Public Works Committee, where he  
26 helped develop a comprehensive drainage program to solve  
27 flooding problems and started a recycling program; he also  
28 chaired the Palos Hills Emergency Services Disaster Agency; and

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Joel M. Tomas will be deeply felt  
2 by many, especially his wife of 35 years, Leona; his two  
3 daughters, Lara and Lee Ann; his son, Joel; and his sister,  
4 Heleane Battaglia; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 mourn the passing of Joel M. Tomas along with all who knew and  
8 loved him and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
9 friends, and community; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the family of Joel M. Tomas as an expression of  
12 deepest sympathy.